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Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2003 7:57 PM
To: Localism
Subject: Views of One Charlotte Family

Commissioners and Localism Staffers

I am unable to attend Wednesday's meeting here in Charlotte but would like to share my family's views on this subject briefly.

We did not support the recent FCC decision to allow more concentration of media ownership. My family is strongly supportive of the nourishment of local and regional views and discourse that "local" ownership of radio and TV stations provides, and your recent decision moves us even further away from that desirable condition. My wife worked in radio for a number of years, and we are well aware of the changes that technology and ownership concentration are bringing to the industry. As an ex-Washingtonian and student of public policy, I have a strong conviction that it is contributing to the weakening of our civic life and democratic processes as well.

My favorite example of a healthy, locally focused TV station is WRAL in Raleigh. The ownership is highly respected for true engagement in the civic life of NC's capitol, yet the station is also successful from a business point of view. We are watching the struggle between WRAL and its network with baited breath, as the prospect of more and more programming decisions being made in some distant metropolis alarms us deeply.

I only hope that this "localism" initiative is not some PR figleaf to hide further moves in the opposite direction.

Roger Coates

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